



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
William R. Massey, Chairman

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

August 30, 2006

Mr. Justin Porteous
Mercer Fraser Company
P.O. Box 1006
Eureka, CA 95503

Dear Mr. Porteous:

Subject: Coverage under Order No. R1-2005-0011, "General Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification for Discharges Related to Sand and Gravel Mining, Excavation, and Processing Activities, Including Asphalt and Concrete Operations, on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region"

File: Essex Gravel Extraction Operations
WDID No. 1B02101WNHU

On July 11, 2005, Mercer Fraser Company submitted an application to this office for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements. On January 18, 2006, we posted a public notice for your project on our web site and a 21-day public comment period has taken place. We did not receive comments regarding your project.

On June 21, 2005, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2005-0011, "General Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification for Discharges Related to Sand and Gravel Mining, Excavation, and Processing Activities, Including Asphalt and Concrete Operations, on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region" (General WDR). Review of the application by Regional Water Board staff indicated that Mercer Fraser Company Essex Gravel Extraction activities and processing facility might be eligible for coverage under the General WDR.

Regional Water Board staff requested additional information from Mercer Fraser to demonstrate that the Essex facility is in compliance with the discharge requirements and prohibitions contained in the General WDR. Mercer Fraser has demonstrated that their aggregate extraction activities at the Essex facility will comply with the General WDR and that this facility does not have asphalt or concrete batch facilities at this location. On August 22, 2006, we received your check for \$372 to cover the remaining balance of the applicable fee.

This letter hereby informs Mercer Fraser that the proposed aggregate extraction activities and processing facility on the Mad River are now subject to the requirements of General WDR Order

California Environmental Protection Agency

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No. R1-2005-0011. We encourage all appropriate personnel to review and become familiar with the discharge requirements and prohibitions contained in the General WDR. The identification number for this project file will be WDID No. 1B02101WNHU. This number should be included on all future correspondence related to this matter.

Please call Dean Prat of our staff at (707) 576-2801 or Catherine Woody at (707) 576-6723 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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Enclosure:

Order No. R1-2005-0011, "General Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification for Discharges Related to Sand and Gravel Mining, Excavation, and Processing Activities, Including Asphalt and Concrete Operations, on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region"

cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer, P.O. Box 4863, Eureka, CA 95502
Ms. Jane Hicks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Functions, 333 Market Street,
San Francisco, CA 94105